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REMARKS:			
FROM: OA&E,			
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FORM NO. 241
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(47)

23 APR 1982

DCI/ICS 82-3839

23 April 1982

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:



Office of Assessment and Evaluation

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SUBJECT: Some Thoughts on DIA's Language and Area Studies Programs

1. The memorandum from General Williams introducing the Defense Academic Research Support Program (DARSP) and the Defense Advanced Language and Area Studies Program (DALASP) emphasizes that they are to "focus on research and languages in significant areas of the developing world." He goes on to say that "Although these areas promise to be increasingly important for future national security policy and planning, the Department of Defense has little or no resident expertise in them." Having pointed out that these are pilot programs, he urges DIA, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force to "nominate for training now the promising analysts you will depend on five years from now, and select research topics with future rather than current analytical needs in mind."

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2. The DARSP announcement indicates that the project is designed to "support graduate or advanced education and training for GDIP area specialists in languages and geographic areas in which the DoD has little or no in-house expertise. Training in languages native to the area of concentration is a program requirement." Both programs, according to the announcement, were meant "to demonstrate the feasibility and utility of enhancing Defense language and area expertise and analysis through cooperation with the academic community." The DARSP in particular is intended to "(1) promote access to external sources of linguistic and area knowledge which can complement and supplement Defense analytical capabilities;" and "(2) expand the research of open sources of information, and widen the interpretation of events and prospects to broaden Defense understanding and perspective of developments and conditions in areas of current and future U.S. national interest." During the initial phase, priority emphasis has been given for programs dealing with Sub-Saharan Africa; secondary priority is assigned to Southwest Asia, specifically the Arabian Peninsula and Turkey. "Languages to be studied and utilized in research are to be native to the country or region of concentration and used by significant segments of the population." Since the "languages of former colonial powers are widely taught both within and outside the Defense establishment, it is not a basic purpose of these programs to support the study of such languages." "All research conducted under the DARSP will be held in the public domain. Researchers will be encouraged to publish the results of their research." "Formal study will be conducted at an accredited non-Government college or university in the United States or abroad, the selection of which will be jointly agreed upon by the student and the Program Office." The DALASP "is open to GDIP area specialists who are or will be involved in Third World areas and languages as a primary specialization. Military area specialists may be supported under the program with Service

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assurance that their future assignments will require expertise in their area of specialization." []

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3. It is quite clear from the above citations and from my conversations with [] and his staff (who comprise the Program Office to manage these initiatives) that these programs were designed to provide the Department of Defense (and thus, indirectly, the Intelligence Community) with a small corps of analysts with area and language skills in Third World countries not now the subject of priority concern to defense. Such an initiative would fill a gap, not only in defense, but in the Community as a whole, and was particularly welcomed by members of the Intelligence Community Staff since the funds for this pilot effort were to be dedicated to these goals and would not have to compete with other priorities in defense. Although [] and his people are presently engaged in a detailed budget forecast for the next five years, they have advised me that they have received [] and two billets for FY 1982, and project [] and five billets for FY 1983. The billets will be used to "compensate" those organizations (the Uniformed Services or DIA) for bodies they would lose during the period of academic training. Despite the rather promising language of the announcement issued by General Williams in late February, the program, in my estimation, now seems headed in the wrong direction. Eighty to ninety percent of the funds allocated for FY 1982 (and possibly also for FY 1983) are to be devoted to the DARSP. The Program Office, having received suggestions from DIA and other DoD components, is now preparing RFPs to be sent to academic institutions for research to be done, among others, on the following topics: "Peace keeping activities in Africa;" and the "Rise of African Leaders." While both of these topics are undoubtedly of some interest to someone in the Community, and obviously within DIA, they hardly seem to me to advance the knowledge of DIA and the Community in the specific Third World areas (Sub Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia) identified by General Williams as the areas of concentration for the pilot program. [] and his people are not yet certain which projects will be funded for specific language training of the DALASP, but did mention the possibility of sending someone to be trained in Afrikaans. Since Afrikaans is basically a form of Dutch, it could hardly qualify as a native African language. Moreover, should a need arise for Afrikaans linguists, it would be a relatively easy thing to give anyone with a knowledge of Dutch/Flemish a few months intensive training to qualify him to handle Afrikaans (I myself can read Afrikaans, and can understand and speak it just based on my rather rusty knowledge of Dutch). []

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4. When discussing these programs with representatives of [] office and with [] I expressed my disappointment at the initiatives underway. I made quite clear that it was not the intention of the Foreign Language Training Committee to interfere in a purely DoD initiative but that our comments had been requested by [] and that we had been queried by Congressional committees on the Community's view of this DIA initiative. [] people told me they welcomed my comments, would take them under consideration, and keep me advised of their progress. []

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5. On 22 April 1982, [] informed me that he had had a lengthy meeting with [] and his staff, and that the latter had virtually completed a most detailed budget for the next five years which he, [] thought was a first-class piece of work. He told them that he shared my concern that the implementation of the programs should serve the goals stated by General Williams in his announcements, i.e., to provide Defense with area and language expertise on specific Third World countries, initially in Sub Saharan Africa or the Middle East. He thought it essential that Longanecker's people indicate quite clearly how RFPs for research would contribute directly to these goals. He further reminded Longanecker that DoD as well as the Intelligence Community Staff had been queried several times by the HPSCI and other Committees concerning the DIA initiatives, and that it was essential that the unique nature of these programs not be watered down. [] replied that he was aware of both [] and my concern, and that he welcomed our comments and guidance. I expect to receive within the next few days the draft five-year budget (referred to above) as well as copies of the RFPs being sent out to academia. []

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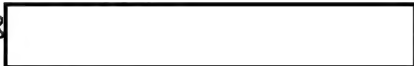
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